

115. The system of claim 103 further including interrupt structure coupled to the control computer for receiving an interrupt signal. /

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed under the transitional provisions of Rule 129 (37 CFR §1.129(a)). As noted in the Preliminary Amendment mailed March 20, 1995, this application is a continuation application of Application Serial No. 08/067,783, entitled "Videophone System for Scrutiny Monitoring with Computer Control", filed on March 25, 1993. Since that continuation application was pending for at least two years as of June 8, 1995, Applicants request that the finality of the Final Office Action mailed February 5, 1998, be withdrawn, and this Amendment fully considered. This Amendment Under Rule 129 is filed prior to the filing of an Appeal Brief, and prior to abandonment of the application. The fee set forth in §1.17(r) is included.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 26-33 and 50. Claims 34-39 and 51 were previously pending. New claims 52-115 have been added to more fully cover Applicant's inventive subject matter.

Applicants have conducted a detailed review of the "Vision By Telephone" reference relied upon by the Examiner for the anticipation rejection of claims 34-39 and 46-49, as well as the primary reference for the §103(a) obviousness rejection of claims 40-45, 48 and 51. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants firmly believe that the "Vision By Telephone" reference fails to teach, suggest or even contemplate Applicant's disclosed and claimed system. A more detailed analysis of the reference makes these differences clear.

First, consider the "surveillance mode". This mode permits a base station to contact a selected remote station. As stated in the reference, this is achieved as follows:

"In its surveillance mode a two digit number **keyed into** the base station will trigger the 60-way auto dialer to dial out to the selected remote station." (page 2, left-hand column).

Significantly, this manual, i.e., strictly human, selection of which remote station to access, as well as the selection of the two digit number for accessing that remote station, as well as the keying in of that number, are all manual. There is simply no teaching or suggestion of an automated, computer controlled selection and sequencing system.

Next, once the particular (e.g., 1:60) remote site is manually selected, the imaging from the surveillance cameras is fixed and preordained. While each of the "multiple remote sites (may include) several surveillance cameras" (page 1):

"The surveillance unit will automatically select the first camera to take its single frame picture which is then transmitted over the line to the monitor in the base station unit. At the same time the second camera picture is already in the store awaiting its turn for transmission and automatically each succeeding camera will follow in sequence, the cycle continuing until a base station command signal is initiated."

(page 2, left hand column)

There is no teaching or suggestion of the ability to control the sequencing of the image generation at the remote surveillance cameras.

Finally, the remote site may receive up to 12 different commands (e.g., unlatch a door, move a camera, open a speech channel or terminate the line transmission) (page 2, left hand column). There is no teaching, suggestion or contemplation of having any of these commands being generated under computer control.

Finally, as previously described in Amendments, the "Vision By Telephone" system is not a dynamic, real-time system. Rather, it is a "slow scan TV" system (page 1, left hand column), in which the time for generation of a single image takes at least a few seconds, with indications that it may expand upwards to about 30 seconds.

Turning now to a discussion of the claims as presented, claim 34 as previously presented distinguished over the "Vision By Telephone" reference at least in its inclusion of the memory for storing graphic display data, whereas the reference merely provides a "single line 17 character identification legend", which serves as a "fully documented historical record", which teaches generation of information specific to the incident, as opposed to information previously stored in memory. To yet further clarify the claim, Applicants have indicated that the control unit serves to automatically "provide a sequence of remote location displays under operation of the computer control unit." It is telling that the "Vision By Telephone" reference nowhere teaches or suggests such computer control, indeed, it teaches away in its express use of human selection of the remote location as the only mechanism for site selection.

Independent claim 46, as previously presented, is markedly distinguishable from the "Vision By Telephone" reference. The claim expressly requires that the "control computer" be coupled to a "memory unit for storing time sequence data and remote location data", and that the control computer utilize that data to "selectively communicate" with the remote locations "in accordance with said *time sequence data*". There is simply no teaching or suggestion of this computer controlled, time sequence communication and display of a plurality of remote locations. The reference contemplates the exact opposite, namely, human selection, human activation and human control. This is all the reference suggests, notwithstanding the inclusion of numerous microprocessors within the system. No conclusion can be drawn other than that the authors of the

“Vision By Telephone” reference did not have in mind, and did not teach, computer controlled sequential selection of sites for scrutiny.

Turning now to claims 40-45, 48 and 51, rejected as obvious over the “Vision By Telephone” publication in view of Thompson, a number of highly pertinent distinctions are apparent. For example, consider claim 40 (and therefore the dependent claims). Specifically, without limitation, the claims require a “plurality” of switch structures at each of said plurality of monitored locations for “providing alert signals indicating various alert situations”. As shown in Fig. 2 of the instant application, switches S5, S6 and S7 provide one example of such a system. The specification provides in pertinent part:

“The area 15 containing a desk 20 is provided with three manual switches, S5, S6 and S7, each manifest a situation of a different type.

Specifically, the switch S5 indicates an “emergency” or “red” situation, the switch S6 indicates an “alert” or “yellow” situation and the switch S7 indicates a “routine” or “green” situation.”

(Specification at 15, lines 1-6).

While the “Vision By Telephone” system does include an “alarm mode” in which a sensor at the remote site may be activated, there is simply no teaching or suggestion of Applicant’s claim system which includes the plurality of switched structures for providing alert signals indicating “various alert situation”. This express language cannot be ignored. The Office Action makes no reference to a teaching or suggestion in either of the cited references through such a structure.

The newly presented claims fully cover Applicant’s invention. This is done without the addition of new matter.

Applicants have conducted a detailed review of the specification and the claims as now presented. Applicants believe that the claims as presented are fully patentable over the art of record. Clearly, allowance of these claims is solicited. Should the Examiner have any remaining issues, Applicant requests that the undersigned be contacted by telephone to most expeditiously resolve these outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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